

# Medi-Cal & HCR Monthly Update

Bureau of Program and Policy

2015 - 2nd EDITION



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## 90-DAY CURE PERIOD

This is to remind staff that with the implementation of Health Care Reform (HCR), the **Cure Period**, often referred to as the **Rescission Period**, has been extended from **30** to **90** days.

When a case is terminated due to a failed renewal or failure to provide information during renewal; the beneficiary has **90** days from the **effective date of termination** to provide the required documentation.



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## Former Foster Care Children (FFCC)

Since **January 1, 2014**, FFCC youth who were in foster care on or after their **18th** birthday in California, or in another State, may be entitled to Medi-Cal benefits up to age **26**. FFCC includes youth who were receiving Medi-Cal in foster care under the responsibility of the State or a tribe on their 18th birthday or later.

Additionally, FFCC youth who were not receiving Medi-Cal benefits while in foster care on their 18th birthday, and are between the ages of 18 to 21, may be covered under the former foster care program up to age 21.

### HOW TO APPLY:

- FFCC youth can apply for the FFCC Medi-Cal Program using the FFCC Medi-Cal application form **MC 250-A**. (**Note:** a regular Medi-Cal application is not to be used).
- The MC 250-A application can be submitted in person at any DPSS office, or by mail, and must be forwarded to the **FFCC Unit, at the Medi-Cal Outreach District #16**.
- FFCC youth can apply by phone by calling the **FFCC Unit, at the Medi-Cal Outreach District #16**, at **(626) 927-2690** or **(626) 927-2647**.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Income and property are **not** required to determine eligibility for FFCC Medi-Cal Program.
- Eligibility can be based on self-attestation of being a Former Foster Care youth.
- If no verification of FFCC is received at initial application, then the Medi-Cal Outreach FFCC Unit must determine if the applicant was in foster care on their **18th** birthday within a **30-day** period after FFCC benefits have been approved.

For additional information or FFCC referrals, contact the **FFCC Unit, at the Medi-Cal Outreach District #16**, at **(626) 927-2690** or **(626) 927-2647**.

**Reference:** Call-Out MCP 14-04, dated February 13, 2014.

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# Medi-Cal & HCR Monthly Update (cont.)

## Disability Determination Service Division (DDSD) Applications

Staff should continue initiating and accepting DDSD applications once applicants have indicated disability or requested a disability evaluation. Although this population may qualify and be eligible for MAGI Medi-Cal, DDSD applications should also be processed.



Applicants with an approved disability status have the advantage of qualifying for Non-MAGI Medi-Cal benefits such as the 250 Percent Working Disabled program. For these beneficiaries, earnings for themselves and their households will be calculated using the **\$65 plus 50% income deduction**.

Furthermore, if the participant decides to apply for Social Security Disability or SSI benefits, an approved disability status would assist to expedite this process.

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## Do Student Health Plans Meet the Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) Requirements?



Yes, student health plans meet the MEC requirements under the Affordable Care Act.

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## Get Familiar With Your “HCR – SME” (Health Care Reform – Subject Matter Expert)

With the implementation of HCR, our Department is facing numerous challenges due to the many changes in Medi-Cal policy which affect the way we do business. Such changes in Medi-Cal policy have affected our day-to-day operations and eligibility systems a great deal.

Due to these challenges, staff from the Medi-Cal Program Section, in conjunction with staff from Line Operations Division (LOD), have joined forces and have created the HCR-SME Forum.



Representatives from each district office, the DPSS Academy, Appeals and State Hearings, and the Customer Service Centers were selected to take part of the HCR-SME Forum. The purpose of the HCR-SME Forum is to meet on a regular basis to present new policies and procedures, share information about LEADER changes, and to discuss the issues related to the implementation of HCR.

Since August 2014, the HCR-SME Forum has been taking place on a weekly basis. As of January 2015, the HCR-SME Forum is convening on a bi-weekly basis. The district's SMEs have been instructed to hold meetings with Eligibility Supervisors after each HCR-SME Forum to discuss new policy, share information learned, and bring any issues or concerns from staff back to the HCR-SME Forum.

If you are a Medi-Cal Eligibility Worker, there is no doubt that you have encountered many issues while attempting to determine or re-determine Medi-Cal eligibility. It is important that you and your supervisor become familiar with your district's SME, who might be able to share the information and knowledge gained at the HCR-SME Forum.

Medi-Cal Program is creating a webpage in the Health Care Reform website that will provide workers with information about the districts HCR-SME. Look for the link in a future edition of this newsletter.

